



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
SUSTAINABLE DELTA OBJECTIVE
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.
815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to the California Delta:

“Manage the Delta as both a critically important hub of the California water system and as California’s most valuable estuary and wetland ecosystem. Achieve the two co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The co-equal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protect, maintains, and, where possible, enhances and restores the overall quality of the Delta environment, including, but not limited to, Delta culture, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities and improves the Delta’s flood protection to ensure an increased level of public health and safety.”

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

The Update 2013 Objectives Web-a-thon was held on June 13-14, 2013 to discuss the draft 17 Objectives and the associated Related Action for the Water Plan. Introductions were made around the room and online. Paul Massera, DWR, Program Manager, Update 2013, welcomed everyone and noted that an online wrap up session will be conducted on July 9th, to conclude any items needing additional discussion. He explained that the workbook was prepared by DWR staff and subject matter experts, and is for discussion purposes only. The first few pages of this draft document provide definitions of terms and the Water Plan mission, vision and goals – which sets the context for the objectives and related actions. A brief review of the Delta objective and related actions (found on pages 23-27 of the workbook) would be followed by discussion on the text.

Overview

Jose Alarcon, DWR Project Team, provided brief background on how the objectives and related actions were developed. He and Francisco Guzman have reviewed the 37 Featured State Plans, related state agency plans with bearing on the Water Plan, and correlated the respective recommendations with the Water Plan objectives. These were forwarded to the subject matter experts for consideration in updating the related actions for each objective. Collectively, the objectives identify what is needed to accomplish the goals of the Water Plan. The related actions represent what is needed to accomplish each particular objective.



The workbook contains a column for performance measures, which will help track each action and inform the next Water Plan Progress Report. Draft measures have been proposed for some of the objectives, and feedback is welcomed on potential performance measures – as well as the objectives and related actions.

Document Walk Through

Carl Lischeske, Lead Engineer, Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), reviewed the Sustainable Delta Objective. He briefly recapped the 2009 enabling legislation for the DSC, which emphasized reduced reliance on the Delta for water supplies. The objective is a compilation of language from the legislation. The related actions represent recommendations to other agencies and water suppliers, which are not policy and therefore not enforceable. Advice is being sought on the recommendations being forwarded for inclusion as related actions.

Related Actions

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included:

General Discussion

- The title doesn't match up with goal – maybe change the word “manage”?
- The last sentence should not append the statutory language. Either use statute language or provide different language.
- Q. Does this have to be regulatory language? It reads like a mandate.
- A. This is the legislative language, so it seems like we should not change it.
- Staff are recommending that the co-equal goals be reflected in the Water Plan as a guiding principle. Ensure the definition is included, perhaps in chapter 2. Consider adding language related to the implementation committee and which recommendations should be included. Recommendations are not state policy, so be clear on that point.
- These are all recommendations, not mandates. There are concerns about incorporating the related actions and recommendations from the Delta Plan. Water agencies did not expect to see these recommendations in the Water Plan. However, the Water Plan suggested that stakeholders be involved in the Delta Stewardship Council process, as that is what would be included in water plan.
- There are questions about implications for implementation. Consider removing the dates, to alleviate some of the concerns

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1. State or local public agencies undertaking covered actions must file certifications of consistency with the Delta Stewardship Council, which must include detailed findings that demonstrate how the covered action is consistent with all policies of the Delta Plan.

Discussion:

- No comments.
2. Provide a more reliable water supply for California by implementing the following:
Item #a: All water suppliers should fully implement applicable water efficiency and water management laws. Item #b: The State Water Board should evaluate water rights applications, that increase use of water in the Delta, for consistency with reasonable and beneficial use. Item #c: Develop guidelines for a water reliability element, in various water supply plans, that describes efforts for water conservation and supply development. Item #d: Establish an advisory group to reduce impediments to statewide water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater goals by 2014. Item #e: Revise grant and loan criteria to provide a priority for an expanded water supply reliability element. Item #f: Complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and environmental report/statement. Item #g: Upon adoption, implement the BDCP conservation measures. Item #h: Develop a coordinated statewide system for water use reporting. Item #i: The Water Plan should include information to track Delta Plan water supply reliability performance measures. Item #j: Provide technical and financial assistance to improve surface and groundwater monitoring and data management.

Discussion:

- 2c: This is a new element – is this required or recommended? Clarify if this is optional.
 - Urban water management plans are prepared as directed by statute. DWR provides guidelines that are quasi-regulatory, so this could be implemented through a guidebook.
 - This is contained in the Delta Plan, so having it in the Water Plan shouldn't be a problem.
- 2d: The two existing advisory groups (USC, ASC) that may be able to do this. Take out the dates.
- 2e: How will consistency with 85021 (reduced reliance on the Delta) be monitored? Consider take out the reliability clause language.
- 2h: What does “full participants” mean? It needs to be clarified for follow up.
- 2j: What does “immediately provide” mean? Answer: It means now.
- 2h – is this surface and groundwater? If groundwater then this is a problem.
- This item will be continued to July 9.



3. Water quality in the Delta should be maintained at a level that supports, enhances, and protects beneficial uses identified in the applicable water quality control plans.

Item # A: Update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan for flow objectives. Item #b: Develop and implement a Delta Regional Monitoring Program. Item #c: Address non-native invasive species.

Discussion:

- Continued to July 9th.
4. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, with other agencies, should encourage habitat enhancement and wildlife-friendly farming systems on agricultural lands.

Discussion:

- Continued to July 9th.
5. The Delta Protection Commission should apply for designation of the Delta and Suisun Marsh as a National Heritage Area, and the federal government should complete the process in a timely manner.

Item #a: Expand wildlife viewing, angling and hunting opportunities.

Discussion:

- Continued to July 9th.
6. By January 1, 2013, responsible local, State and federal agencies with emergency response authority should consider and implement the recommendations of the Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force, in support of a Delta regional response system.
Item #a: Expand emergency stockpiles and “over-reinforce” west Delta levees. Item #b: Local levee maintaining agencies should consider developing their own emergency action plans, and stockpile rock and flood-fighting materials. Item #c: Coordinate emergency response plans to protect infrastructure from long-term outages. Procedures should also protect Delta land use and the ecosystem.

Discussion:

- Continued to July 9th.
7. The legislature should take actions to reduce flood risk in the Delta.
Item #a: Create a Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District with fee assessment authority, to provide flood control and emergency response for the region. Item #b: The Central Valley Flood Protection Board should evaluate areas in, and upstream of, the Delta for designation as floodways – with consideration of climate change effects. Item

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#c: Evaluate and implement a bypass and floodway on the San Joaquin River near Paradise Cut. Item #d: Require adequate levels of flood insurance for all structures in floodprone areas.

Discussion:

- Continued to July 9th.



Attendance

In Room

Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Mick Klosson, Environmental Planner
Carl Lischeske, Delta Stewardship Council
Kevan Samsam, Delta Stewardship Council
Bob Siegfried, Carmel Area Wastewater District
Greg Zlotnick, State and Federal Water Contractors

Jose Alarcon, DWR, Water Quality Lead
Megan Fidell, DWR, RMS Coordinator, Progress Report Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Heidi Hill Drum, CCP, Facilitator
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Jami Childress, California Emergency Management Agency
Anisa Divine, Imperial Irrigation District
Gina Ford, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bruce Gwynne, Department of Conservation
Zia Hosseinipour, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Margie Namba, Granite Construction
Chris Potter, California Resources Agency (Ocean Grants and Wetlands)
Tony St. Amant, Water Policy Advocate
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Megan Walton, California Emergency Management Agency
Emilia Wisniewski, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Betty Yee, Central Valley Regional Water Board

Todd Hillaire, DWR, Chief, Flood Management
Salomon Miranda, DWR, Floodplain Management
Maury Roos, DWR, Chief Hydrologist